



Dear President, Dear Secretary, Dear Friends

We are writing to update you on developments following the IBSF AGM held in Qatar on the 24th November 2017, a meeting which many of you will know we attended. We were pleased to see that the WCBS were guests at the meeting and publicly reinforced the fact that the only organisation that can represent snooker within the WCBS is an organisation known as the World Snooker Federation (WSF).

The WCBS is currently the only billiards sports organisation which holds IOC recognition on behalf of our sport. Therefore, it is the only body, in conjunction with the French national federation (in their capacity as hosts), which can file a billiards sport bid for the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2024. The WSF, along with its members, wish to put significant resources behind this bid.

When the IBSF terminated the World Snooker Federation Memorandum of Understanding between the WPBSA and IBSF in April 2017 and then withdrew from negotiations over a replacement arrangement during the 2017 World Games, the IBSF effectively terminated its own involvement in the WCBS. Therefore, under the WCBS Constitution, the IBSF's right to be involved with the efforts to secure an Olympic and Paralympic place for billiard sports was lost. Their actions had the immediate effect of jeopardising the official recognition and funding for national federations like yours. This short sighted, and failed, attempt by the IBSF to become the sole member for snooker within the WCBS has put all stakeholders within snooker at risk.

In light of these significant concerns, the WPBSA consulted with its partners and quickly acted to formally establish the WSF to protect snooker, its Olympic and Paralympic aspirations and the interests of national federations who rely upon this recognition. Contrary to what is being stated by some, the WSF is a properly established, not for profit and independent sports federation for snooker and billiards, legally registered in Switzerland under Swiss law (and in geographic proximity to the IOC). Contrary to assertions being made, the WSF is **NOT** a commercial company. It has been established at a significant cost to the WPBSA in order to secure the long-term security for us all in our wonderful sport.

Having been met by members of the IBSF and ACBS board in Qatar with a promise of a conciliatory meeting to resolve outstanding issues with the WPBSA and the WSF, which was then publicly confirmed at the IBSF AGM, we were disheartened to learn that the spirit of this offer has already been broken by an IBSF and ACBS board member. Letters with a threatening tone have been sent to some national federations seeking to prevent them from joining the WSF and inferring that there will be consequences if they do so.

The WPBSA and the WSF deplore this conduct as it goes directly against the spirit and conciliatory stance taken by all parties at the IBSF AGM in Doha. As you know, the WSF does not prevent its

members from holding membership with other organisations. It is also disappointing to read that these letters contain totally false information about the WSF, with the apparent intention of damaging its credibility. The WSF will only work with organisations where there is trust and support in the working relationship and where there is a transparency of process. This is not the case in our current interactions with the IBSF. This places a significant barrier to the WSF or the WPBSA working with the IBSF now or in the future. The WSF want to work with all bodies that represent snooker and billiards to develop our sport globally. The WSF will provide a solid framework in which organisations, national federations and regional federations will be able to work together to develop specific opportunities for billiard sports.

For example, there will be opportunities through major amateur championships for elite performers to earn 2-year tour cards to the World Snooker Tour. There will also be further opportunities for top amateur players to qualify for major global events like the World Snooker Championship in Sheffield, the Sangsom 6 Reds World Championship in Thailand and many other major international events which now work in harmony alongside their national federations.

Following this latest disappointing attempt to bully those who share our vision, the WPBSA and WSF are now forced to make things completely clear.

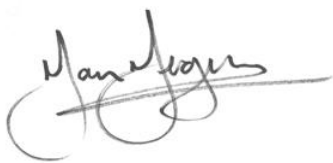
Only organisations holding legitimate membership of the WSF will play any part in any future World Snooker Tour or individual World Snooker event qualification.

WSF membership numbers continue to grow and we are encouraged by the large number of national federations who clearly share our vision that billiard sports adhere to the highest possible standards of sports governance.

To this end, we welcome our existing and new members and look forward establishing the official WSF board and WSF World Council (which will be elected from our diverse international member federations).

We look forward to working with you for a brighter future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Ferguson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jason Ferguson

President

For and on behalf of the World Snooker Federation